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SALVATION

If you are not a believer in Jesus Christ, or aren't sure and would like to become one, then you need to believe that Jesus Christ was and is the Son of God, that he was God who became a man, that he lived a sinless and perfect life, keeping the Law of God perfect in every way, that he kept faith perfectly, and that he was crucified on that cruel cross for your sins, mine and the entire world- he died for our sins! His death on the cross paid the penalty fully, one time for all sins that we have ever committed and that we will ever commit. He died; he went down into the bowels of the earth, even into Hell, and was raised from the dead on the third day in a resurrected, eternal body. He ascended back into heaven, was seated at the right hand of God, and is now Lord over heaven and earth. He is coming again to judge the world, to raise the dead, where he will give an eternal, resurrected, glorified body to everyone that has believed on him as their Lord and Savior, and to establish his kingdom one earth.

You come become a Christian right now as you read this, by personally placing your faith and trust in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior; believing that he is God's only begotten Son, that he died on the cross for you and that he was raised from the dead and is now seated in heaven at the right hand of God the Father. *"Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved."* Acts 16:31a And when you do trust Christ, and Christ alone, as your Lord and Savior, then go to God the Father in heaven in prayer and tell him so. Tell him that you have believed on his Son, thank him for his Son, and thank him for forgiving your sins and saving you! *"That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord", and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."* Romans 10:9,10 *"For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."* Romans 10:13 *"Therefore, being justified by faith (declared righteous), we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."* Romans 5:1

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Listen To The Chorus – Continued

4. Patience - υπομονη, *hupomone*

Hupomone has been translated as patience, endurance and perseverance. Basically it is abiding under a trial. Human nature, as it is, has a natural aversion to having to go through things that are unpleasant, unwanted, or downright painful. But life has these sorts of things that all of us have to go through.

The virtue of *hupomone* is being able to abide under the trial. It differs from *makrothumia*, which is also translated as patience, (makrothumia comes from the idea of long-temperedness), in that *makrothumia* generally is that attitude of patience when dealing with people, while *hupomone* is patience when dealing with things or situations.

No one likes to suffer; no one likes to hurt or be under pressure. And the natural reaction is to remove oneself from these sorts of situations. Even David expressed that sentiment when he said that he wished he had wings so he could fly away and be at rest. “*And I said, Oh that I had wings like a dove! for then would I fly away, and be at rest. Lo, then would I wander far off, and remain in the wilderness. Selah. I would hasten my escape from the windy storm and tempest.*” Psalm 55:6-8

And Satan knows that. That's why he puts so much pressure on the people of God to keep them from moving forward in the will of God for their life! But God has provided a spiritual provision whereby we might remain in the trial, growing in his Word and grace, while we continue to do the will of God for our lives and maintain forward momentum.

But staying under the trial, while continuing to move forward in life, cannot be done in the flesh. If we are in the flesh we will be ground down by the angelic conflict, as many believers can attest to. Because our warfare is spiritual and not carnal, **the endurance we are to have must be spiritual in nature**. And that's what *hupomone* is about.

But endurance is not just abiding under the trial, but abiding under the trial while one continues to function in the Father's plan for your life and still keep moving forward at the same time! So the idea behind *hupomone* is actually one of **perseverance**. It's a “keep on keeping on”, or “stick-to-itiveness”. The Lord manifested perseverance completely and perfectly in his life here on earth. “*For the Lord GOD will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have **I set my face like a flint**, and I know that I shall not be ashamed.*” Isaiah 50:7

How we develop perseverance, and it is developed over time, is by being filled with the Holy Spirit, living by faith, prayer of course, making the right decisions, having the desire to do the will of God in our lives no matter what, holding our ground in the angelic conflict, claiming the promises of God by faith and being in the Word of God every day of our lives. **It is developed by living a life of faith**, not one of works in the flesh, as Paul could so easily attest to. “*For we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that **we despaired even of life**: But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that **we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead**.” 2 Corinthians 1:8,9*

5. Godliness – ευσεβειαν, *eusebeian*

First of all, it does refer to the **spiritual life** that God created in each believer at the moment of salvation, when we were regenerated by the Holy Spirit, which is what being born again is all about, this made us a new man, or a new species of humanity.

Second, this **spiritual life is eternal**. That which God created in us he took from himself. And this spiritual side of our nature, because it is from God, is **eternal**. Which is another one of the many reasons why believers cannot lose their salvation. The new nature is spiritual, made of spirit and truth, and because it is spiritual it is eternal in nature.

The **third** thing is that **our spiritual life is unique to us!** There are no two spiritual lives alike. We may be all spiritual in substance, and we are, but our spiritual life is our very own unique to only us. It is what makes you, you, and makes you different than every other believer in Christ!

The **fourth** thing is that **we will be living in our very own spiritual life for all eternity!** What is in you now, that is, your spiritual life that God created in you and only for you, is **what you will be living in forever!** It will be clothed with an eternal body at the resurrection.

The **fifth** thing is that **Jesus Christ is the prototype for this new man**. Adam was unique in all of God's creation because he was the first of a new species, the species of humanity. And Jesus Christ is unique in God's new species of humanity, because he is the prototype after which all Church Age believers are patterned, with each one of us having our own uniqueness. The new man, the new nature, **the spiritual man and life in us is patterned after Jesus Christ!**

The **sixth** thing is that **this spiritual life in us needs the metabolization of Bible Doctrine by faith and the filling of the Holy Spirit**. This is what strengthens us, edifies us, renews us, gives us faith, hope, love, joy, peace, creates spiritual growth inside us and conforms us to the image of Christ.

The **seventh** thing is that **eusebeia takes all these things into account and then applies it to life**. *Eusebeia* is the intake and metabolization of Bible Doctrine by faith, under the filling and power of the Holy Spirit, and then being applied to life's experiences! **So eusebeia refers to the believer in Christ living life in their very own spiritual life while here on the earth**. Which will be followed by them living in their own spiritual life for all eternity in a resurrection body.

If we remember at the beginning of our study, we saw that a **tragic flaw** is a defect in the character of **the hero that brings about his own downfall**. Where the hero's death, or demise, is caused, **not by things happening to him, but by his own actions!** All of which could have been avoided, but because of the hero's flaw, or series of flaws, which he couldn't see in himself, (or wouldn't see), he became responsible for his own death or demise. Interestingly enough, the Greek word for the **tragic flaw** was **hamartia, our word for sin!**

Now with the introduction of the fifth member of the chorus, *eusebeia*, or living in our own spiritual life, we see another provision from God to keep us from sinning, our tragic flaw, and missing out on partaking in the divine nature. For if we live our lives in the filling of the Holy Spirit, in the new natures that God has created in us, which will keep us away from living in the flesh nature where the problem of sin comes from, then we will be able to avoid sin in our lives. At least to the degree that we continue to live in the new nature.

6. Brotherly kindness – φιλαδελφίαν, *philadelphia*

Philadelphia is a compound of two words, *philos* - to love and *adelphos* - a brother. But when the two words come together to form another word, it changes the meaning altogether. Now some have called this brotherly kindness, brotherly love, Christian fellowship, etc.. But to understand it better we need to compare the *philos* word group with *agape*, which we will get into next.

Agape is a spiritual, non emotional attitude toward all people and is created by the filling of the Holy Spirit in the believer in Christ. It is directed toward all mankind; it has no need of reciprocation by another party and is based upon the character and virtue of the one possessing it, not its object. We can refer to it as an impersonal love, or virtue love.

While the *philos* word group also has in it the character, virtue and integrity of the person possessing it. But it is a reciprocating virtue love where the believer has *philos* toward another believer, and that believer in turn receives that love and reciprocates it back. It is dependent upon the virtue and character of both parties, and if either one loses their doctrinal integrity, then their *philos* disappears with it.

Philos then becomes the basis for capacity love, based upon virtue, between Christian brothers and sisters, husbands and wives, boyfriends and girlfriends, etc.. Expressions used to denote it are: Christian friends, loved in the Lord, lifelong Christian friend, etc..

It is beyond fellowship, because one can have fellowship with any believer in Christ, as long as two believers are filled with the Holy Spirit, and where Christ and His Word are the focus of the conversation. If Christ and His Word aren't the center of the conversation, then there isn't fellowship, that is socializing. Much of what passes today as fellowshiping is nothing more than emotions and/or Christian socializing.

Philos love is a capacity love based upon growth and the Word of God in one's life; it is a virtue love based upon personal integrity, and both parties have to have virtue and doctrinal capacity. It is also based upon some sort of compatibility between the two parties, where they share the same interests, have meshing personalities, or there is a deep respect for each other's love for the Lord and his Word.

But when we combine the two words *philos* and *adelphos* together we end up with a different idea altogether. We do not have a personal love concept for all believers in Christ, we end up having a nonemotional, virtue love for all believers in Christ. It now becomes like *agape*, where in *agape* we have an impersonal love for all nonbelievers, and in *philadelphia* we now have an impersonal love for all believers in Christ!

Now virtue love for other believers in Christ, *philadelphia*, will become an extremely important member of the chorus that will keep us on track partaking in the divine nature; one that we will have to listen to over and over in our walk in this life.

And the reason why is that having Christian friends can be one of the greatest blessings we can ever have in this life. But being hurt, rejected, abandoned, despised, or betrayed can become one of the greatest hurts a believer will ever have to go through. So how does one handle the loss of a Christian friend, or a Christian spouse, without ending up bitter and depressed? The answer lies in listening to the chorus member about having virtue love for all Christians. We have to recover the filling of the Holy Spirit, forgive and forget the offense, let bygones be bygones and keep moving forward.

7. Love – ἀγαπῆν, *agape*

Agape love is patient, kind, not envious, doesn't brag, isn't proud, isn't rude, not self-seeking, isn't easily angered, keeps no record of wrongs, it doesn't delight in evil, it rejoices with the truth, it always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres, never ends and it inspires us toward faith and having faith ideas!

Agape cannot be produced by the flesh nature. The flesh is able to produce human love, love for family, love for a husband or wife, love for one's children, which are all genetic imprints that Adam had originally, but have been corrupted by his fall into sin and the subsequent passing on of sin from generation to generation. But the flesh nature is absolutely unable to produce *agape* love.

The **origin** of *agape* love is from God himself. It comes to us through the filling of the Holy Spirit in the new nature of born again believers in Christ. The problem many have is they equate the passage in the Bible that says, “*God is love*”, from their perspective of the loves that they, at times, are able to manifest, which have nothing to do with the concept of *agape* love.

Agape love is a spiritual, not emotional, love. That's one of the things that sets it apart from human love that Adam's race is able to produce at times. **It is not a feeling.** It is not one of the seven emotions that all mankind possesses in the soul. Even some Christians have a problem in making this major distinction between Christian love and emotional love.

Emotional phenomena are not spiritual phenomena, and vice versa. Many Christians think that because they are experiencing an emotion that they are having a spiritual experience! Which is not the case. In fact, it's just the opposite! The seven emotional complexes of fear, anger, guilt, envy, grief, human love and human happiness, are a part of the flesh nature.

When God saved us, through our faith in Jesus Christ, he didn't retain the old flesh nature to operate in it, instead, **he created an entirely new nature inside of us**, one that is new in time and different altogether, (it is a new species of humanity), and it is in this new nature that he operates in, through the filling of the indwelling Holy Spirit, that produces spiritual love, spiritual joy and spiritual peace!

There is a “love” that the world is able to have, but it is not a spiritual love. There is a “happiness” that the world is able to have, (and do they run after it), but it is not spiritual joy. There is a “peace” that the world is able to have, but it is not the spiritual peace of Christ!

Agape love is not dependent upon the integrity or reciprocation of object. It is based upon the integrity of the one exercising it. It is like the rays of the sun. The sun is always shining, regardless if it's a cloudy day, or if it is night on our side of the earth, and regardless if anyone is standing outside to enjoy it; it just keeps on shining. The light it produces comes from within it.

And so it is with the *agape* love that Christians are able to produce, due to our new natures and the indwelling Holy Spirit, *agape* love is generated from within us and radiates out to everyone around us regardless of their character, or lack of it, regardless of whether they are good or bad, mean or pleasant, rich or poor, humble or arrogant, smart or stupid. **Agape love is the seventh member of the chorus that God has provided us that will prevent us from being caught up in soul sins.** And it is because of this kind of love that we are able to love the unsaved of the world, not because they deserve it, not because they are nice, not because of some emotion, but because of who and what we are!

F. Applying The Doctrines Of The Chorus.

Now that we've seen the various members of the chorus and the doctrines that they represent, we must start applying their counsel to us, so as to avoid the soul sins of the arrogance complex, the emotion complex, the lust complex, the manifestation of old sin nature activity in our actions, speech, emotions, or thought, and such matters as childhood survival defense mechanism, repressed emotions, which we simply lump together as garbage in the soul.

We can begin with **pride**, not that it is mentioned by name, but because it is always there and manifests itself by not submitting oneself to the authority of God in obeying his Word and applying his doctrines. Pride lifts itself above all these things. It is that mental attitude of the believer that says I'm above all these things, that I don't need to sit under Bible Doctrine, or live by it in my life.

Pride sees himself as above others. There is the pride that all have, *hyperphroneo*, the mental attitude that views oneself above everybody else. Then there is the mental attitude of pride that views oneself even higher than that, *hupselophroneo*. And then there is the heights of pride, *hupsitos*, where one views himself as superior to everybody on the earth.

There are many aspects of pride, many manifestations. There are those who always want to be in the limelight, to have the spotlight on them, to be the center of attention. There are those who have inflated egos. There are those who think that they are superior to other people, who have developed this mental attitude due to their abilities, their intellect, their accomplishments, their education, their good looks, their money, their position in the community, their position at work, their morality, their height, their strength, their family lineage, the list is endless.

Now if one was to draw a line that would represent who and what we really are, then pride would elevate that person above that line. The first line being *hyperphroneo*, then above that would be the next line of *hupselophroneo*, and at the top of the mountain, the heights, would be *hupsitos*. As one can see, though, the base line represents who and what we truly are – that's the reality! **So to the degree that one is lifted up in pride in their own thinking concerning themselves, then to that degree that individual is divorced from reality!**

But there's another word and that's *sophroneo*, which is translated as soberminded. Now *sophroneo* means to save the mind, *sozo* and *phroneo*, which is another way of referring to sanity! To the degree that one is lifted up in pride to that degree he has lost his mind! But by believing on Jesus Christ and then submitting yourself to the doctrinal teaching of God's Word, then you will start becoming **sane!**

Pride is the mental attitude that Satan acquired and he started to view himself above what he truly was. So much so, **he started to view himself as being above God!** It was this mental attitude, then, that motivated himself to depose God from his throne. His thinking was, "If I'm superior to God on high, then I need to elevate myself above him". Which meant that he would have to depose God from his throne of rule and take over the ruling of the universe himself! Thus the war in heaven.

Pride will keep us from applying the instructions of the chorus, but we can avoid pride by submitting ourselves in humility to God's rule over us in every area. "*Likewise, ye younger, **submit** yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. **Humble** yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time.*" 1 Peter 5:5,6

The first member of the chorus that we are to incorporate into our lives is **virtue**. As we have seen, virtue, *arete*, is mastery in a given field, or excellence in achievement. Which tells us that **we're going to have to master the details of life so we can start going to church to get the doctrinal teaching of the Word of God on a regular basis**.

When God took us out of the world system and gave us to his Son, Jesus Christ, for salvation, we became his children, acquired a new nature, were indwelt by the Holy Spirit and so many other wonderful things. But we still possess a sin nature, which is resident in the flesh, and we still live here in a world ruled by the devil.

Which all boils down to the fact that there are many distractions, allurements, temptations and hindrances that will all work to prevent us from going on in the Christian life, prevent us from finding a good local church to attend, and even attend it on a regular basis.

So what that means is that we are going to have to learn to master the details of life just to sit under the teaching of the Word on a regular basis. Duties, responsibilities, commitments all scream for our attention. Raising children, family, friends also add to the din. Then we have the problem of our flesh nature which wants to have fun, or to take life easy, or to indulge some desire, which may or may not be sinful in itself, with the result that Bible Doctrine gets pushed to the back of the line.

What we need is discipline, organization, resolve, making the right choices, commitment to the ideal of putting the Word first, a love for Christ, all to the place that we put the teaching of the Word of God over our jobs, our homes, our families, our friends, our commitments, our community involvements, our leisure time, our recreation time, our fun time, over everything and everyone!

Now that the believer has mastered the details of life so they can regularly sit under the teaching of the Word of God from a Pastor-Teacher, then they are going to have to start mastering the various aspects of the Christian life and apply them to their own life: being truly filled with the Holy Spirit on a daily basis, the need for praying to the Father in the name of Jesus Christ under the filling of the Holy Spirit, living by faith, claiming the promises of God by faith, how to biblically have their sins forgiven by acknowledging them to God, 1 John 1:9, dealing with emotions, how to deal with worry, and so many other concepts.

Because the majority of Christians today have this problem they will never go on to maturity in the Christian life. Their priorities are all wrong. For the men, they usually put their jobs first, then their fun, then wives and kids, and Bible Doctrine has the last place, or no place at all. For the women, it's their career first, then shopping, then their homes, kids and husband. And once again, Doctrine has the last place or no place at all.

When the Bible tells us to deny our lusts; it's telling us to deny the over twenty-five categories of lusts that we all have so we can put the Christian life first! But sadly shopping, recreation, having fun, sports, entertainment, hunting, fishing, hobbies, and everything else comes first for most Christians. Even in their churches the Word of God isn't the star attraction, but music, entertainment, the "dog and pony show", all of which add up to religiosity, but not biblical Christianity.

Arete is the doctrine of the chorus that is needed for these types of Christians to "get their acts together" concerning living the Christian life. Not the religious life of their particular religious group, but true spiritual Christianity based upon the Word of God!

The next member of the chorus that we are going to have to listen to is **knowledge!** Now the passage has it as *the knowledge*, την γνώσιν, which brings our attention to the fact that this is not talking about just any kind of knowledge that we might find here on the earth, **but the knowledge of the Word of God.** Christ tells us that *we shall know the truth and the truth shall set us free, but the truth* that he is referring to is the truth of the Word of God as found in the Scriptures.

Someone wrote a long time ago, that everybody stumbles over the truth at some time in their lives, most just pick themselves up and continue along as if nothing had happened. The Bible tells us that wisdom is the most desirable of all things to have and one must seek it more than anything else in life. *“For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the LORD. But he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul: all they that hate me love death.”* Proverbs 8:35,36

We can trace all our problems we have in life back to the simple concept that we did not have, nor apply, the truth of God's Word. So the solution for us is to gain knowledge in our lives. But where are we to get it? Where can we find the Truth? The answer to that is the local church! Or it should be the local church, where you have a man with the spiritual gift of Pastor-Teacher teaching Bible Doctrine. *“But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the **church** of the living God, **the pillar and ground of the truth.**”* 1 Timothy 3:15

Many Christians are floundering in this life. They go from church to church, from following one fad after another, they get caught up in legalism, the dog and pony show extravaganza, and many give up and quit going to church altogether. They are subject to everything that comes down the road and haven't got a clue as to what the real Christian life is all about.

And the reason why is because they lack knowledge! In America today we are losing our families, losing our economic prosperity, we've lost our currency, we've lost the distinctiveness of what made our country such a great country, and we're under the judgment of God! And the reason why is due to lack of knowledge! *“My people are destroyed for **lack of knowledge**: because thou hast rejected knowledge. I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.”* Hosea 4:6

The Apostle Paul wrote that in the last days there would be a phenomenon arise among the people of God where they would not want the whole counsel teaching of the Word of God. Oh, give them programs, committee meetings, entertainment, religiosity, music (preferably *contemporary*), give them anything that appeals to their flesh nature, to their vanity, their egos, their self-righteousness, but not the doctrinal teaching of God's Word. *“For the time will come when **they will not endure sound doctrine**; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.”* 2 Timothy 4:3,4

The Bible tells us that without faith, it is impossible to please God. *“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”* Hebrews 11:6 If we are to live by faith, then our faith has to have something to believe! And for the people of God it must be the knowledge of His Word.

So if we want to be the Hero in our play, then we're going to have to get under the teaching of the Word of God and stay with it each day of our lives. This will always keep us on track, and be our point of reference for living in the devil's world and partaking in the divine nature. But if we don't heed this member of the chorus, then our live will be just another tragedy.

The next virtue that we'll have to apply in our lives is **temperance**, *εγκρατειαν*. Temperance deals with self control, and for the believer in Christ, it refers to not being under the control of the sin nature resident in the flesh. The sin nature produces human good as well as human sin, and we can categorize human sin in four categories: mental sins, emotional sins, verbal sinning and overt activity sinning.

There are three enemies of the spiritual life that hinder us from partaking of the divine nature; the world system, the flesh nature and the devil. Self control to all of them, and especially to the flesh nature. Paul tells us that the flesh is at war against the spirit and vice versa. *“This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.”* Galatians 5:16,17

If the Christian is going to partake in the *divine nature* that God has created in every believer in Christ, then he or she is going to have to have control over their flesh! And we will have the victory in this area, for God has provided a solution for this by living in the filling of the Holy Spirit, confessing our sins to God if necessary, and occupying ourselves with Christ through his Word.

But to do this, we are going to have to humble our pride and submit to God. *“Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:”* 1 Peter 5:6 Remember, Agamemnon's tragic flaw was pride! It was his pride that got him where he was, and it was his pride that refused to listen to the voices of the chorus. And it will be our pride that keeps us from doing what God wants us to do!

The word for *submit* in this passage is *tapeinoo*, which had the idea of looking around for who the authority is and then submitting to them in obedience to what they say! The word for *mighty* is *krataian*, which had the idea of might or power in the area of rule. So what this is bringing out is God's rule over us as our God and our king.

Together what all this is telling us is that God, our *Epichoregia*, has provided us what we need to have control over the flesh nature, if we listen to what he has to say. Which means that we are to stop pursuing after the lusts of the flesh, we are going to have to stop living in our emotions, we might have to deal with garbage in the soul, and anything else the flesh might throw at us.

So how this works out in application is that we are going to have to realize that our life is being lived in one or more of the emotions, and one or more of the lust complex, or verbal sinning, or overt activity sinning and come to the conclusion that this is not living in the sphere of the spiritual life dynamic God has provided for us.

Next we are going to have to come to a decision that we are going to have to get out of living in the flesh and start living our lives in the spiritual life. Now in the flesh we won't be able to do that. We might become self righteous and even more arrogant, we might turn into another legalist, if we try to correct a flesh problem using the flesh to do so.

What we are going to have to do is submit ourselves in humility to God by appropriating the various grace provisions that he has supplied, all spiritual, to have victory over the flesh. Just like in resisting the devil we are to submit ourselves to God, resist the devil, and he will flee from us. *“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”* James 4:7 Both dynamics must be there; resisting the devil, yes, but also submitting to God's authority by obeying his Word!

